also prayed that the Railway bridge near the ferry might be so constructed that passengers and cars also might be allowed to use the bridge, as great difficulty was being experienced especially at flood seasons in connection with the transport of goods across the river.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions will be considered.

130. Suggestions for making the existing Railway service most useful and convenient to the people.

Sahib Bahadur S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for the statement in the opening Address relating to the extension of the Railway and the creation of a State Railway department and also for procuring a through service from Trivandrum to Madras which obviated the necessity of a change at Madura. The Member agreed with Mr. Ganapati Pillai as to the urgent necessity for the extension of the line to some central part of the town and pointed out that the difficulties experienced by the people by the location of the Railway Station at Chakay were innumerable. The merchants were not able to book their goods traffic at the Railway Station and goods bound for Quilon were sent in *valloms* with the result that an appreciable revenue in the shape of Railway receipts was lost. The Member pointed out that the public utility of the extension to the Pier was questionable as that extension did not mitigate the difficulties of the merchants or the public and prayed that the resolutions submitted by the meeting of the merchants of Trivandrum and referred to in Mr. Ganapati Pillai's representations, might engage the immediate attention of Government.

The Member also prayed,

(1) that a Station be put up for the present near the first Mantapam as the extension to the Pier runs by the side of that Mantapam;

(2) that the S. I. R. be induced to use at least the F class engine in the trains that leave the Trivandrum Station. At present the travelling public felt great inconvenience for want of sufficient accommodation in the various trains leaving the Trivandrum station and it was due to the fact that the engines used belonged to class A which was not able to draw beyond a certain weight;

(3) that early steps be taken to provide sufficient waiting accommodation at the stations between Trivandrum and Quilon;

(4) that arrangements be made for providing drinking water at the several stations;

(5) that goods sheds be put up at important stations such as Kazhakoottam, Murukampuzha, etc., and

(6) that the existing roads connecting the important main road with the Railway approach roads be metalled.

Dewan's reply.—I have already told Mr. Ganapati Pillai that the construction of a flag station near the Mantapam at the first mile-stone on the Beach road is engaging the attention of Government. Four new B class engines and some new rolling stock have been purchased. They are on their way. When they arrive, the traffic difficulties complained of will largely disappear. In regard to waiting accommodation, the Railway authorities will be addressed. The Railway authorities do realise the importance of such things, but it has to be remembered that the line has just begun to pay and that any increase in capital expenditure would reduce the net income on the large capital outlay. The other suggestions will be kept in view.

131. Necessity for creating an Executive Council composed of peoples' representatives.

Mr. N. J. Varghese (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) said that opinion was strong in the country that an Executive Council should be formed to assist the Head of the Administration in governing the country, and that the Government's reply to the interpellation in the Legislative Council that Government did not consider it necessary to create an Executive Council was disappointing to the people.

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Autocracy had been condemned by all civilised governments and people were given a substantial share in the administration of their country in almost every State. It would be admitted on all hands that the work of the Head of the Administration was so onerous and heavy that one man could not successfully cope with it however clever he might be. Council government was now recognised as the right form of Government everywhere, and the Member pointed that there was proof in the Puranas to show that a Council of Ministers existed in each State even in ancient times to advise the King in all important matters. The Member next referred to the undesirability of appointing foreigners as Dewans and Heads of Departments in the State, as such appointments were not conducive to the well-being of the people. There was no continuity or fixity of policy in certain important matters affecting the administration, with the result that public money was often wasted in useless ventures. There were also instances where such administrations had not given satisfaction to the people, as for instance, in the enhancement of process and registration fees, etc., creation of unnecessary appointments, etc. The Member was not for appointing officers as members of the Executive Council, as that meant only substituting a number of bureaucrats for the present autocrat. He wanted members of the Council to be elected by the people who would directly be responsible to the people. The Member therefore prayed for the early creation of an Executive Council composed of four Members, excluding the Dewan, of whom one should be in charge of the Financial portfolio, another in charge of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, a third in charge of Education and the fourth in charge of Public Works, Sanitation, Anchal, etc., the remaining portfolios resting with the Dewan. The members should be elected by either the Legislative Council or the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and they should be answerable to these institutions. The Members should have higher powers than the Ministers under the British Indian Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

132. Suggestions for closer participation by the people in the administration of the country.

Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) first thanked the Government for actively interfering and obtaining certain rights and privileges on behalf of Travancore in the Cochin Port Trust which had been rather neglected by the previous administration. Proceeding to his subject, he said that he proposed to speak on the expansion of national institutions in the State. Taking the S. M. P. Assembly first, the Member observed that the institution was started 17 years ago by that far-sighted statesman, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E., and that although at the beginning the programme of subjects did not contain any general subjects, as for a long time past the people had no public occasion to give vent to their grievances and hence discussed only local subjects affecting their immediate wants. That aspect had now changed and several members took up general subjects at recent sessions, but in recent years Government were not giving satisfactory replies to their representations, but simply gave them an assurance that the subject was noted. The Member referred to certain instances wherein the representations of the people's representatives were unsatisfactorily dealt with. The treatment accorded to the members of the Assembly was also not satisfactory, and as a consequence some of the best men kept away from the Assembly. Though substantial good had come to the country by the institution of the Assembly, the fact still remained that the valuable time of the Government and also of the members of the Assembly was oftentimes wasted owing to the cumbrous and circumlocutory method of conducting the Assembly.

The Member was glad that the Dewan had forestalled him and several other Members by dealing with many of their subjects in his opening Address, leaving very little for them to dwell upon. The Member was of opinion that the political consciousness of the people had been awakened and that the political institutions should therefore be revised and remodelled in conformity with the new wave of political thought and on democratic lines. Successive Dewans had testified to the good sense and moderation and the high sense of public duty

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